

DIRECTORY OF SERVICES

It is the mission of the Teaneck Department of Health and Human Services to provide programs and services which promote and protect the health, welfare and safety of all the men, women and children who live, work or do business in the Township of Teaneck.

Property Maintenance and Housing Code Enforcement: The prevention of blight and neighborhood deterioration is a top-priority responsibility of the Teaneck Health Department, the chief enforcement agent of property maintenance and housing codes. The enforcement program includes investigation of residential overcrowding, inadequate heat and hot water, insect and rodent infestations, and overgrown and littered properties. Property maintenance is not limited to the appearance of buildings and properties; it also includes the correction of a variety of health and safety hazards.

The housing code enforcement program includes licensing and inspection of one-family rented dwellings and lodging houses, which are inspected on an annual basis. All vacant apartments, including those in two-family houses, must be inspected before they are reoccupied. The department makes thousands of inspections a year. Enforcement proceedings include warnings, violation notices, and, if all other means fail, Municipal Court action. Laws regarding lead poisoning and asbestos contamination are also strictly enforced.

Environmental Health: Health Department Inspectors participate in the West Nile Virus surveillance system by monitoring properties for mosquito breeding habitat and by collecting avian specimens for laboratory analysis. Potential sources of air pollution are monitored to protect the quality of the air we breathe. Applications for stationary equipment such as pool pumps and air conditioner compressors are reviewed by the Health Department to make sure that the units will not become a nuisance to neighboring properties. Inspectors also survey loud machinery and other stationary noise sources if a complaint is received. Service stations are monitored for compliance with the Township's used oil recycling ordinance. Pamphlets on lead paint hazards and many other environmental health issues are available at the Department's office.

Food Safety: Licensed Environmental Health Specialists perform periodic inspections of all establishments which sell or serve food products to the public. More than 190 establishments including supermarkets, restaurants, grocery stores, hospitals, nursing homes, caterers, itinerant vendors and school cafeterias are inspected. Over 100 food vending machines are also inspected on a yearly basis. Food handler training courses are given by staff to food service managers and their employees.

Animal Control: The Township contracts with the Bergen County Animal Shelter to provide animal control services such as pickup of stray dogs and rescue of injured wildlife. Residents may obtain these services by contacting the Teaneck Health Department, Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and through the Teaneck Police Department at all other times. Dog licenses must be obtained in January and February of each year. A \$15 late charge is added to the licensing fee if the license has not been obtained by March 1st. Cat licenses must be obtained during April and May of each year. A \$15 late charge is added to

the licensing fee if the license has not been obtained by June 1st. The Health Department Inspectors investigate all complaints about animals.

General Inspections: To insure that sanitary conditions are maintained and conditions comply with applicable regulations, periodic inspections are made of public institutions, including hospitals, nursing homes, childcare centers, and public and private schools. Throughout the year, public bathing places are monitored weekly to ensure compliance with the state recreational bathing code. Water samples are analyzed for microorganisms and proper water chemistry.

Insect and Rodent Control: The department administers a pest control contract that includes inspection and outdoor extermination on public lands only. Advice and information will be provided to private homeowners having problems with insects or rodents. The Bergen County Mosquito Commission provides control of areas where mosquitoes breed by monitoring and spraying. They can be contacted at (201) 634-2880 or 2881. For information on the control of household and yard pests and nuisance wildlife, the Bergen County Extension Service can be contacted at (201) 634-2895.

Public Health Nursing: The Township contracts with Holy Name Hospital for the provision of Public Health Nursing services. Public Health Nurses conduct a hypertension/risk assessment clinics once each month at Holy Name Hospital and the Teaneck Jewish Center for Older Adults. Appointments are not required. Blood pressure screening, Health counseling and assessment are also provided weekdays at the Senior Service Center located at the Rodda Center between the hours of 10 AM and 2:00 PM. The Public Health Nurse also investigates outbreaks of communicable disease and conducts investigations of childhood lead poisoning.

Adult Immunization: Influenza and Pneumonia shots are administered to Seniors during the fall at several locations. Watch the newspapers for the time and date.

Maternal and Child Care: The Township administers a Child Health Conference and Immunization Center in conjunction with Holy Name Hospital which is open to Teaneck residents by appointment. A Pediatrician and the Public Health Nursing staff see infants at appropriate intervals throughout the first year of life and periodically during the preschool years. In addition to routine physical examinations, mothers are provided with nutrition advice and routine child rearing questions are answered. Protective immunizations are administered under State guidelines to prevent: Diphtheria, Pertussis (Whooping cough), Tetanus, Polio and Mumps, Measles and Rubella (German measles), Haemophilus Influenzae, and Hepatitis B. These inoculations are a prerequisite for children entering the Teaneck School system and day care centers. Blood lead, hearing and vision tests are also performed at the appropriate ages. This service is provided to prevent disease and to maintain good health; sick children must be taken elsewhere for medical help. All Teaneck school-age children are also eligible for free immunizations as required for school attendance. Appointments can be made by calling (201) 227-6251. The Public Health Nurse also audits all schools and child care centers in the Township for immunization compliance.

Senior Wellness: The Health Department offers a Public Health Nursing component at the

Richard Rodda Senior Center from 10:00 AM until 2:00 PM, Monday through Friday. In addition to being available to quickly respond to health emergencies, nurses routinely take blood pressures, conduct risk assessments for heart disease and diabetes, and provide health education and consultations on a variety of health topics. Appointments are not required.

Health Education: Public Health education goes hand-in-hand with preventive medicine. Its purpose is to influence people's attitudes to encourage them to make decisions which will prevent development of self-destructive health habits. The Public Health Educators work with community and school groups to organize and develop programs and services tailored to their requests and needs. Health related literature and reference materials are available at the Health Department office.

Project Find/Senior Health Symposium: This variation of the annual health fair focuses on Senior Health and wellness. Flu and Pneumonia shots, Lipid profile, cardiac risk assessment and much more are available. Health education seminars are offered on a multitude of topics relevant to Seniors including substance abuse. This event is offered in the fall. Watch the newspapers for the date and time.

Teaneck Municipal Alliance Against Substance Abuse (TMAASA): The Health Department provides full-time coordination for the municipal alliance committee. For information about the Alliance please call the coordinator at (201) 837-1600 Ext. 1502.

Social Services/Mental Health: The Social Services component of the department directs the Township programs which are designed to assist and provide referrals to a diverse population of individuals and families.

Residents who are having difficulties with many of life's challenges and who may need counseling or therapy for family problems, alcohol/drug abuse, and/or emotional problems are encouraged to contact Vantage Health System's Access Department at (201) 567-0059, Monday through Friday, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Fees for assessment and ongoing treatment are arranged with a fee counselor. Vantage provides a wide range of behavioral and Mental Health services. Residents requiring help for psychiatric emergencies should contact the Bergen County Psychiatric Emergency Screening Program (PESP), which is available 24-hours a day at 262-HELP (201-262-4357). If assistance is needed to access any of these services you can contact the Social Services Coordinator at (201) 837-1600 Ext. 1503.